MALNUTRITION INCREASING

According to a report released Tuesday by the FAO, worldwide there are 842 million malnourished and the prospects for reducing, in a relevant way, this figure in the future are bleak.  
  
In its fifth year, the study on "The State of Food Insecurity in the World 2003" states that malnourished people, 798 million or 95% live in developing countries.  
  
In the early 90's, the number of undernourished declined in 37 million, which increased again by 8 million for the second half of this decade.  
  
This trend is threatening the target set by the United Nations Organization (UNO) of halving the number of undernourished people in the world by 2015.  
  
According to the document to meet this ambitious goal, we need to adequately feed 26 million people a year, representing twelve times more well fed than those fed today.  
  
Demarcating responsibilities  
  
The UN blames politicians to delay the process to improve the nutrition of the population.  
  
For the director general of FAO, Jacques Diouf, "the problem is not lack of food, such as lack of political will."  
  
Most of the population that is undernourished live in rural areas of developing countries.  
  
However, the FAO report says that there are signs of increased commitment in the fight against famine.  
  
It praised the program "Zero Hunger in Brazil and efforts in Sierra Leone and China.  
  
World Hunger  
  
The foreword to the report, "the suffering of 800 million hungry people, not only an unjustifiable tragedy, but also a threat to economic growth and political stability worldwide."  
  
Topping the global list of countries with hunger the Republic of Congo (75% of the population undernourished), followed by Somalia (71%), Burundi (70%) and Afghanistan (70%).  
  
Malnutrition has also increased in many countries of intermediate development, especially in some former Soviet republics in Asia, while countries in eastern Europe and the Baltic states have largely avoided these problems did not occur in Bosnia-Herzegovina , Bulgaria, Latvia, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia and Montenegro.  
  
This grim picture has variations. By region, the number of undernourished people declined in Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, but increased in sub-Saharan Africa, Middle East and North Africa.  
  
FAO stresses the importance of the negative impact of the AIDS epidemic, which exacerbates poverty and hunger, and stresses the role of water as the drought in recent years, account for 60% of food emergencies.